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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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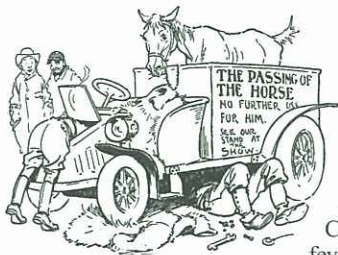


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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

by **Daryl Rayner** (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212) <daryl@xrefer.com> www.xrefer.com www.xreferplus.com

As I write this, Christmas fever is brewing just as **London Online** madness has abated. Plus we've had all the excitement of an open top busload of Rugby players being paraded around the streets of London displaying the **Web Ellis Trophy** after winning the **2003 Rugby World Cup**. http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/travel/features/travel_advice/rugby_victory_parade.shtml. You have to appreciate that we are not used to winning in sport, so when we do, we go delirious!

London Online was a great success. Even though there appeared to be fewer stands and less people, the quality was very high. The sessions were varied and interesting. It was good to catch up with so many of you. I was surprised and pleased to see that we had many visitors from North America. It was good to catch a glimpse of **Judy Luther** <judy.luther@informedstrategies.com>; **Jim Mouw** <mouw@uchicago.edu>; **Mary Waltham** <mary@marywaltham.com>; **Peter Scott** and **Amy Brand** <abrand@crossref.org> (who had courageously left her small baby for a few days to attend the show!) It was good to see the UK contingency too; **Helen Henderson** <Helen@helenhenderson.com>; **John Cox** <John.E.Cox@btinternet.com> and **Anthony Watkinson** (from afar) <anthony.watkinson@btinternet.com>. It was like being back in Charleston. Where were you, **Katrina**?

I wasn't able to go to many of the sessions as I was (wo)manning our stand and in meetings. However, it is interesting to see from the programme that the sessions were about quality searching, blogging and customer service. The digital world is moving on.

It was also intriguing to see that the whole event was blogged <http://infotodayblog.com/>.

The **Office of National Statistics** have published their *Official Yearbook of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 2004*. It can be found at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5703>.

I see that **STN International** has announced the launch of French and English patent data-

bases in 2004. The new databases **FRFULL** and **GBFULL** will provide full-texts of French and British patent documents. Further information can be obtained from helpdesk@fiz-karlsruhe.de.

The **University of East Anglia** are running a netskills workshop on January 15th entitled "Detecting and Deterring Plagiarism." It is to be held at the **University of East Anglia** <http://www.uea.ac.uk/>. I am pleased to announce that **FreePint** <http://www.freepint.com/> have launched new two fee-based publications, **VIP** <http://www.vivavip.com> and **VIP EYE**. **VIP** is a monthly publication focusing on information products and information people. **VIP EYE** provides a twice-monthly e-news and analysis service on the business information industry, concentrating on new products, companies and upcoming development.

Britain's most accessible Websites have been announced at the **Visionary Website Awards** http://www.managinginformation.com/news/content_show_full.php?id=2211. The winners were: **Manchester United**, **Rushcliffe Borough Council**, **Calibre Cassette Library**, **Citizen's Advice Bureau**, **The Bradshaw's**, **Birmingham Focus on Blindness**.

The **National Library for the Blind (NLB)** <http://nlb-online.org/> hopes that the awards campaign will encourage Website publishers to consider access technology when designing sites.

If you are interesting in code breaking, I urge you to visit the online exhibition of **Secrets and Spies** <http://www.pro.gov.uk/virtualmuseum/spies/default.htm>, organised by the **UK Public Record Office** <http://www.pro.gov.uk/>. More historical information can be found at <http://www.victorian-times.org>. This is a **NOF-Funded** digitisation project <http://www.nof.org.uk/> examining social, political and economic developments in **Victorian Britain** (1837-1901).

I am pleased to inform you that **e-Prints UK** <http://www.rdn.ac.uk/projects/eprints-uk/> is running five free workshops (from February to May) about the issues involved in setting up institutional repositories in Bath, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Nottingham <http://www.rdn.ac.uk/projects/eprints-uk/workshops/>.

The **info@UK** December newsletter from the **British Council** is now available <http://www.britishcouncil.org/Info@UK/bulletin.htm#current>.

An Introduction to Information Architecture — a one day seminar jointly organized by **UKOLUG** <http://www.ukolug.co.uk/> and the **Asilomar Institute for Information Architecture (AIFIA)** — is taking place on March 3, 2004. The aim of the seminar is to exchange ideas, visions, and practical experience about **IA**, and explore developing a greater awareness of **IA** in the UK. An application form can be found on the site or by emailing <CABaker@ukolug.org.uk>.

At a ceremony held at the **National Library of Scotland** last week, the **Saltire Society** <http://www.nls.uk/news> announced the winners of a new literary award. Novelist **Robin Jenkins** and poet **Edwin Morgan** jointly share the **Saltire Society/Scottish Arts Council Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature**. I am pleased to report that the **British Library** has launched a research service for business <http://www.bl.uk/cgi-bin/press.cgi?story=1396>. The **Library's** research team offers services for medicine and health care, patents, trade marks and designs, market, company and product information, chemistry and biochemistry, engineering and technology, and information in official publications.

Before I close, I must tell you that **xrefer** has won two awards in the past month. The first, the prestigious **Besterman/McColvin** medal for outstanding works of reference published in the UK, electronic category. The award was organised and administered by **CILIP** <http://www.cilip.org.uk/>, the **Chartered Institute of Library and Information** professionals, with generous sponsorship from **Nielsen BookData** <http://www.nielsenbookdata.com/>, the bibliographic information provider. The second award was presented to us at **London Online** by **FreePint** <http://www.freepint.com/> for innovative customer service. We thank all those involved for both awards. We are delighted!

Happy New Year to you all and hope to see you in San Diego! **Daryl** 

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hosted by **Jay Leno** in Palm Springs, on November 22. The **Entrepreneur of the Year** awards are designed to honor outstanding entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success in innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. Just a personal anecdote about **Sara**. Back in March 1989, when I had begun *Against the Grain*, **Sara** took the time to step in and give me the benefits of her expertise. **Sara** is the reason for the layout

of the first page of *Against the Grain* — Articles and Rumors starting on the first page. **Sara** wrote the very first **Publisher Profile** of **Sage** and gave free copies of *Against the Grain* as gifts to her colleagues. She took the time to talk to and help an insignificant little floundering publisher. She has continued to help to this day. I am forever in her debt. The words extraordinary, innovation and outstanding truly apply to this wonderful woman. Congratulations, **Sara**! Hip! Hip! Hooray!

The **Board of Trustees of Biological Abstracts** has voted to pursue final negotiations with **The Thomson Corporation** (TSX: TOC:

NYSE: TOC) leading to a potential sale of the publishing assets of **Biological Abstracts, Inc.** and **BIOSIS, UK**. Founded in 1926, **BIOSIS** produces vital databases and services for life sciences research, including **Biological Abstracts®**, **BIOSIS Previews®**, and **Zoological Record**. These databases are made available globally on a wide variety of platforms, including the **Thomson ISI Web of KnowledgeSM**. **Thomson/ISI** was selected from a number of potential strategic partners following a detailed review process by the **BIOSIS Board**. After considering both not-for-profit and for-profit

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